

KARO-ECHO Newsletter 06-05-2018

The KARO ECHO Net meets on 146.415 MHz Simplex each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 local time.

The West Costa County ACS/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 MHz repeater (TX down 600 with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

The Contra Costa County EMcomm/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 3893 KHz at 1835 local time

KARO-ECHO meets in person at 7:30 PM on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington, CA 94707 in the upper East Room. Ample parking is available. The next meeting is this **Monday, June, 11, 2018.**

At the June 11 KaroEcho Meeting we will provide recommendations and training for emergency power, portable power, and mobile operations after the regular business meeting is completed on Monday at the KCC (approximately at 2030 hours) **Bring your own portable emergency power gizmos (BYOEPG). There will be a question and answer period afterwards.**

Study Assignment:

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assn. presents HYPERLINK "<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1QxcEfnqVUQGy-W3rstxNckpiozATY1AB>" \t "_blank" "[All About Batteries](#)"

HYPERLINK "<http://www.google.com/url?q=http%3A%2F%2Fbatteryuniversity.com%2F&sa=D&sntz=1&usg=AFQjCNE7VzzWgg9XSViLF92dxib3pEcwXQ>" \t "_blank" "[The Battery University](#): Solid Information on how to take care of any battery

KAROECHO.NET WEB PAGE

Please visit the new KARO-ECHO Webpage at HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/>" <https://www.karoecho.net/> for useful documents and announcements. Note that the old Karo-echo Wiki has been abandoned.

Thanks to Rob, K6RJM, the KARO-ECHO IT manager and web page master who has created this very fast, easy to use, and very useful page that is populated with all the training information that one needs to be a competent radio operator when a disaster strikes our neighborhoods.

Specifically, check out the EVENTS Page and the WORKSTREAMS drop-down menu

which will lead one to an extensive training page that will provide online learning at your own pace. Also the RESOURCE page has many excellent links.

If you are on Facebook, contribute to the Karo-Echo Facebook Page at HYPERLINK "https://www.facebook.com/karoecho/" <https://www.facebook.com/karoecho/>

REPORTS and EVENTS

Digital Comm Team and Working Committee is forming. We are planning to provide error free digital communications for El Cerrito/Kensington in the event of conventional communications outage. Since digital comms adds a few new components to our radio system, the Kensington/El Cerrito Local Area Net architecture is being formulated through experiential methods. A meeting is being planned for the week of June 11. Those interested please contact Rob, K6RJM admin@karoecho.net

Infrastructure Work Group

The antenna, power supply, and radio at the El Cerrito Senior Center has been removed for safe keeping, as they have lost their lease and are moving. (Thanks to Hal, Don, Kevin, and Jamuel)

The next project is the installation of an antenna at Tassajara Park, Mike, KM6CXI is heading up that work group with Kevin), KI6KNP

A work group is forming to remove the antenna on Lexington in Kensington (the lead there was Hal, KK6NDH. Nothing to report at this time. Those wishing to help, contact Hal.

Jamuel is reprogramming the Kenwood TM -733A and TM-741A radios.

The digital committee is scheduling a visit to Fire Station 71 to reevaluate their 2m packet radio setup. It has been determined that two 2m stations close to each other being on the same band will suffer from mutual desense problems. We are considering moving the packet to 1.25m or 70 cm, installing a new computer and printer.

Training Work Group Activity

Rob, has written an excellent "Getting Started" guide for new hams on our web page. See: HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/get-involved/getting-started" <https://www.karoecho.net/get-involved/getting-started>

Also please fill out the JOIN form if you have not done so previously. Find it as a drop down menu under "Get Involved" See: HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/join" <https://www.karoecho.net/join>

A follow-up novice primer has been put on the website for new hams once they have bought their radio and want to learn more. See: HYPERLINK "<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>" <https://drive.google.com/file/d/10J-569BRrx5adhA-hJGPeNITU6B9Yi6z/view>

Elmering/Mentoring Work Group has formed to help newcomers to the hobby to learn the ropes and also to help those with a physical disability to help install antennas. An Elmer is ham jargon for mentor. We all have had one or more.

The Elmer/Mentor committee has already mentored two recently joined members (1 in Kensington and 1 in neighboring Berkeley adjacent to Kensington 6). . If enough people ask we can run a class for new hams or old hams who have been recently inactive. This will serve as a valuable follow up after ham crams and the like (see recruitment below). The Elmering/Mentoring and Recruiting Teams both interface with the Training Committee.

Otherwise please visit HYPERLINK "<https://www.karooecho.net/workstreams/training>" <https://www.karooecho.net/workstreams/training> and read what is available. Ask questions!

KaroEcho Training Work Group has designed a training guide to help members identify what they need to do in order to improve their skills. This guide is broken down to 4 levels. Level A, Advanced Level B, Level C Extra Class, and Level D MAT Trained. What level are you and what is your next step?

HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b52QimF_k6WY90aHIPpnoEvmmL5cp1pd/view" https://drive.google.com/file/d/1b52QimF_k6WY90aHIPpnoEvmmL5cp1pd/view

On every KE Thursday evening net there will be a training session and/or discussion. Summaries of recent net events are found under our past events page at HYPERLINK "<https://www.karooecho.net/events/past-events>" <https://www.karooecho.net/events/past-events>

The May 31 Training Net

Frequency Changing Exercise: K6RJM NCS, 15 Check-ins

This exercise was to make sure we are prepared to change frequencies and if we need more bandwidth or are experiencing interference on our usual frequency. After the initial check-ins, NCS advised all stations to change to 146.430 MHz, the KARO ECHO secondary frequency, where NCS took a roll-call. 14 out of 15 stations reported in. In a surprise twist, NCS then asked all stations to change bands to 70cm and frequency 446.000 MHz. Six out of fifteen stations checked in on 70cm (counting NCS).

Some people reported hearing the net but being unable to be heard. This may be due to the fact that some radios are programmed with a default band plan that designates 446.000 MHz

as a repeater frequency, and these radios therefore default to a -5MHz shift when transmitting. In Northern CA this frequency is designated for simplex FM voice, so in this case you may have to override your radio's default and program that frequency as simplex. I apologize for throwing this monkey wrench at everyone - I only realized it after the exercise!
~ K6RJM

Action Item: Changing frequency on the fly is a skill that grows on you with practice. Use your radios more. Another similar drill is needed.

The Outreach/Recruiting Work Group

The recent mailings (approximately 40) yielded two new members; but was disappointing. It is doubtful that a new mailing will yield many more; however the ham cram exam at Walnut Creek was attended by two El Cerrito-zens who passed their technician and are now members of KAROECHO. We have deduced (duh) that hosting a ham cram here in El Cerrito/Kensington followed by a same day exam might yield satisfactory results given a massive publicity campaign months in advance. . KAROECHO then would offer provide. Rob, K6RJM, has placed a JOIN button on the karoecho.net web page. Please fill out the questionnaire. At HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/join" <https://www.karoecho.net/join>

FAGES-II Scout Hike

On June 2 KARO-ECHO ops KG6ATH and NI6A assisted EBARC in providing communications on the Annual 22 mile FAGES-II Scout Hike. The hike began at Alvarado ark in Richmond, and progressed at the bottom of Rifle Range Road's fire road, the old Nike Base, Inspiration Point, above Lake Anza, behind the Brazilian Room, and on to the Oakland border and back. Cell Phone coverage was spotty to non-existent; but our radio system worked fine. We thank the Contra Costa County Communications Club, WA6KQB repeater, for the use of their repeater. Further see: HYPERLINK "http://www.mdscbsa.org/events/fages-ii/" <http://www.mdscbsa.org/events/fages-ii/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

EBARC FIELD DAY MEETING

Date: Friday June 8, 7:30 pm -- Speaker: Ken Fowler, KO6NO -- Field Day 2018 Planning

Location: EL SOBRANTE UNITED METHODIST, 5151 ARGYLE ROAD, EL SOBRANTE, CA 94803

“Field Day is an annual event where hams all over the US and Canada take their communications gear out into the field, erect portable antennas, operate with portable/

emergency power, pitch tents, and contact other such stations all over the US via Morse Code, Data Modes, SSB, FM, AM, Satellite, etc.

June 23/24 are the Field Day dates for 2018. EBARC will operate from Cesar Chavez Park in Berkeley. Turn right at the end of University. W6CUS will operate over the small hill on the right. Set up usually begins late Friday afternoon on June 22.

The EBARC June meeting is traditionally the time we work on preparations for probably the biggest event of the year for EBARC and most other ham clubs. So come hear and contribute to a discussion about this year's Field Day. Find out how you can get involved and how much fun you can have and knowledge gained from participating in this event.”

Proposed AGENDA: KARO-ECHO Meeting June 11, 2018

The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 PM followed by the approval of the Minutes. Additions to the agenda will be entertained after the proposed agenda is read. Email proposed items to Hal, KK6NDF. Then old business, followed by new business, and followed by the monthly program, a drill, practice, and/or education. Please bring a copy of the proposed agenda to the meeting. The agenda will be uploaded by May 13 and found on HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/documents" <https://www.karoecho.net/documents> under June_2018_Agenda.doc

Hal has planned an exciting and full agenda. We will end the meeting with a discussion of emergency power systems followed by a show and tell session. Bring your

Announcements:

We need a **Net Manager** for the Thursday Night KARO-ECHO Net. Please volunteer at least for one year.

The Net Manager shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall:

Manage the weekly Net according to guidelines established by the Board

Arrange for Net Control Stations (NCS)

Arrange scheduling of Net Control Stations (NCS) by soliciting volunteers to fill slots at least one week in advance.

Transmit relevant bulletins/announcements on the weekly net.

Receive and archive net session reports regarding the call signs of check-ins, the total number of check-ins, total time of net, and number of written messages passed. A copy of the weekly archive should be sent to the Emergency Coordinator (EC), KM6HBO.

Report to the membership at regular meetings

Arrange for announcements during the Net of the date, time, and location of the next

Regular or Special or Plenary KARO-ECHO meeting

Follow the recommended standard ARRL Net Management procedures or improve upon

them.

The Net Manager may delegate Net responsibility to assistant net managers as desired.

We need to ramp up our **PR/Outreach and Recruitment** efforts and brainstorm new ideas. A local ham cram and exam is one such tool. We need a free venue to hold the class and exam. Please help us ascertain one.

PR/Outreach and Recruitment Leader -- Duties:

Increase KARO-ECHO membership by recruiting new and old hams to participate in both the KARO-ECHO net and the meetings.

We need a Newsletter Editor. Duties: Produce and distribute a monthly Newsletter before the monthly KARO-ECHO regular monthly meeting containing the meeting announcement (Time, date, and place), the proposed agenda, the minutes of the last meeting, upcoming drills, activities, and related disaster services information.

Please volunteer for Net Control. Why? Because you will be better able to help us help each other in a disaster once you **learn how by doing**.

We also need volunteers for our **Technical Maintenance Committee** (maintain equipment installations, fix, and install new equipment) at all agency installations. Thanks to Mike, KM6CXI and Frank, K6FAC who have recently joined this vital work group. We can use more team members.

Events:

Simulated Emergency Test (SET) Planning Committee

A hands-on on the air radio test is being planned for late summer for KARO-ECHO. We will test radio simplex comms to and from all 17 CERT Area gathering/staging areas, the EOC, and Fire Stations in order to test our ability to provide backup, parallel and disaster comms for EC/Ken CERT Areas, the FD, and EOC. There will be at least one message sent and received between each area. Mobile stations will also be utilized. So get your mobile antennas, clip boards, pencils, connectors, and batteries charged. Please contact Don, ([HYPERLINK "mailto:NI6A@ARRL.NET"](mailto:NI6A@ARRL.NET) NI6A@ARRL.NET), if you would like to help in the planning/staging of this SET.

Our Portable and Mobile Capabilities Have Been Enhanced

A portable 50 watt 2 m/70 cm radio station equipped with Anderson Powerpole connectors, including 12v batteries, a folding tripod mast stand, a high gain portable antenna, coax currently being equipped for portable operations capable of communicating anywhere in our Karo-Echo region has reached its final stage of development having received a deep cycle

AGM battery and waiting for a Go-Kit on Wheels carrier to arrive. We will then pack everything together as a complete go-kit and test it. We need a few hams willing to set up portable or mobile stations to test our coverage at a few remote Kensington/El Cerrito locations during the test. Volunteers send an email to HYPERLINK "mailto:NI6A@ARRL.NET" NI6A@ARRL.NET

KARO-ECHO has repurposed one 45 Watt Kenwood TK-760HG-1 transceiver for 2M operation with all CoCo County RACES, CERT, and nearby RACES/ARES frequencies programmed. If this proves useful we will repurpose others for portable or equipped as a mobile rig complete with a 2m mag-mount antenna. (Jamuel, KM6HBO and Don)

Ham Class, Exam Preparation, and License Test Saturday, 8 am- 5 pm July 21, 2018 in Burlingame

This is a one day complete ham cram and licensing opportunity. After you pass contact HYPERLINK "mailto:info@karoecho.net" \t "_blank" info@karoecho.net to receive mentoring that will progress into you being a skilled amateur radio operator in our area. HYPERLINK "https://drive.google.com/open?id=1R5B_U7VYmm6VkBaVYWCiCDYS-5ZKuGAu" \t "_blank" [See this poster and sign-up](https://drive.google.com/open?id=1R5B_U7VYmm6VkBaVYWCiCDYS-5ZKuGAu) Tell your friends.

Radio Mapping of CERT Area EC2 in July

We need operators to help radio map EC 2 using FRS and GMRS radio systems throughout Cert AREA EC2 in early July in order to identify dead spots. Please contact Don or Marlene if you could help.

CERT Areas EC9 and Kensington 6 have already been mapped and have been assigned coordinated frequencies (channels).

Red Flag Fire Patrol 2018

Last month Fire Marshal Dave Gibson in conjunction with EC Fire Department, the Contra Costa County Community Warning System (HYPERLINK "https://cwsalerts.com/" <https://cwsalerts.com/>), and the Kensington Public Safety Council presented at the Kensington Community Center on the topics of Fire Safety, notification/warnings, evacuation, and especially the Sonoma Napa and other URBAN wildfire-like conditions that signal a whole new ballgame from traditional “Fire Season” thinking.

In a nutshell Fire Season is now year round and cities like Kensington and much of El Cerrito are as vulnerable as Santa Rosa or Santa Barbara due to new conditions that precipitated wildfires as late as December.

After the presentation I spoke with Fire Marshal Gibson regarding reestablishing a red flag fire patrol that we used to have in El Cerrito. We have also spoken with NALCO ARES/ RACES regarding a joint patrol in East Bay Regional Park areas who has been providing

Berkeley Fire Red Flag Fire Patrols in the East Bay Hills for many years.

Ivan, WA6PVV from Kensington used to help out on the Kensington side of NALCO's patrols and mentioned that they would like to see Ivan's old fire patrol route reestablished. El Cerrito Fire Marshall Dave Gibson was enthusiastic mentioning that he hoped that the El Cerrito Red Flag Fire Patrol could be revived and that I should contact Chief Janes to work out the details. There may be many details such as routes, lookout posts, shared frequencies with NALCO, activation methods, joint commands, etc. Hopefully, this will be a beneficial activity between EC/Ken Fire, Berkeley Fire Joint Command, KARO-ECHO, and NALCO ARES/RACES; but our main concern is whether we would be able to man the patrols adequately as it is best not to make a commitment that we cannot keep. What say you KAROECHO members?

Send in your reports and news to your newsletter editor HYPERLINK "mailto:NI6A@ARRL.NET" NI6A@ARRL.NET

Note: The KARO-ECHO Agenda for Monday June 11, 2018 Meeting see:
HYPERLINK "https://www.karoecho.net/documents" <https://www.karoecho.net/documents>
Also all recent KAROECHO Newsletters will be found there.

The KARO-ECHO **Net Protocol and Net Log** for Net Control Stations (rev). See:
HYPERLINK "https://docs.google.com/document/d/14t56EyuLyaZnp_UwjGkxldX65RSdjlg1FSyD5zKbghg/edit" https://docs.google.com/document/d/14t56EyuLyaZnp_UwjGkxldX65RSdjlg1FSyD5zKbghg/edit

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